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On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
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ON THE GREEN



During the morning of Diversity Day on March 12, President Jordan and Provost Jane Fernandes join keynote speaker Dr. Frances Kendall and (back row) event co-chairs Gregory Ellis and Jerri Lyn Klimkiewicz in the GUKCC auditorium.

Diversity Day 2003 explores unity

'Unity.' The state of oneness. At first glance the definition seems to be the antonym of 'Diversity,' which implies variety. The fact that the two words seem to have opposite meanings did not escape President Jordan in his opening address for this year's Diversity Day, "Building a Unified Gallaudet Community," held on March 12.

But unity is also defined as bringing together as a whole, and at a campus that Dr. Jordan termed as "remarkably diverse" and "a microcosm of the world," finding unity is an continuing challenge that events such as Diversity Day help to achieve. In the words of Gregory Ellis, this year's Diversity Day co-chair with Jerri Lyn Klimkiewicz, "Diversity is a process, not an outcome. It is ongoing."

With such polarizing campus issues as the bison head—seen as a symbol of Gallaudet pride by some and a cultural and ethical affront to others; the 2001 *Tower Clock* year book, viewed as offensive and hurtful to certain individuals and as a medium of free speech to others; and raucous off-campus house parties, seen as a right and privilege to those who engage in them and as a violation of safety and privacy for neighboring residents, how can unity be reached?

The answer, according to keynote speaker Dr. Frances Kendall, can't be found by trying to appease everyone. Kendall, a noted expert in the field on diversity for more than 20 years, is the author of *Diversity in the Classroom.* She has worked with many corporations, agencies, and universities—including Gallaudet, where she has paid two visits to lead discussions and workshops. Kendall's presentations here were attended by the Board of Trustees, which appointed an ad hoc committee to study diversity and last May adopted the University's first Diversity Statement and Guidelines.

"A unified place is not necessarily a place where everyone gets his or her needs met and is happy all the time. . . .[It] also doesn't mean a place where everyone is the same," said Kendall. Rather, she said unity is achieved through the understanding and appreciation of diversity that comes through listening, inquiring, and suspending one's assumptions, reactions, and feelings. Other attributes leading to unity were added by members of the Gallaudet community in the audience at the GUKCC auditorium: patience, respect, and a free and open exchange of opinions.

Society creates barriers to this

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Audience members at Dr. Kendall's Diversity Day address break into groups to discuss characteristics that identify a unified community, on and off campus.

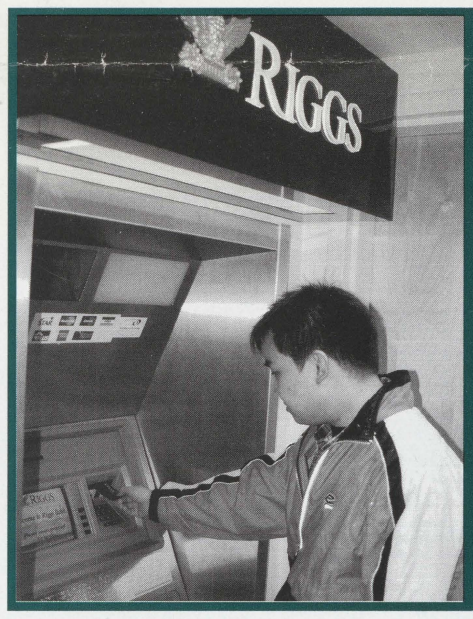
Fred Weiner chairs new Recognition Committee

President Jordan has appointed his Special Assistant for Planning and Government Affairs, Fred Weiner, chair of the Recognition Committee. The newly established group will develop a process through which the University formally and appropriately recognizes deserving individuals or groups that have strong connections with Gallaudet.

"Up until now, we have done this in an informal and often ad hoc way," Weiner said. "But as the list of people well deserving of recognition for their accomplishments continues to grow, we realize that a mechanism is needed to manage the process."

The committee is developing a list of recommendations for consideration by the president and the Board of Trustees. These will cover a broad range of recognition issues, including the naming of Gallaudet buildings and programs, and the erection of statues and other permanent memorials on campus grounds. A campus-wide Town Hall Meeting will be convened later in the semester to which the campus community will be invited to review and comment on the committee's recommendations.

Besides Weiner, Recognition Committee members are: Dr. Katherine Jankowsi, dean, Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center; Mike Olson, archivist, Library; Sam Sonnenstrahl, director of alumni relations; Slemo Warigon, director of auditory management advisory services; James Johnson, assistant director for annual giving, Development Office; Dr. Laurene Gallimore, associate professor in the Department of Education; and Carol Yeh, administrative assistant, Office of Planning.



Senior Yi-Ming Lin uses the Riggs ATM that opened in the lower level of the SUB early this year, giving the campus community another option to the ATM at Benson Hall dormitory. Discussions are being made on the possibility of a third ATM opening at the Conference Center.

Students offered health career options

Gallaudet is offering free six-week summer programs for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students through its Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP).

HCOP goals are to improve access to services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals nationwide and to provide a range of educational support and enrichment services to students in training to become qualified, culturally sensitive allied health professionals serving the deaf community. The disciplines included are psychology, social work, counseling, audiology, and speech pathology.

Gallaudet received a five-year, $2.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration branch, to carry out its long-term goals.

HCOP is a very popular program nationwide with universities such as Stanford, Michigan State, Temple, Oklahoma State, and Boston University School of Medicine participating. Gallaudet is proud to be among them in offering this opportunity specifically for deaf and hard of hearing students as well as for hearing students who aspire to work in helping professions serving the deaf community.

The Summer Enrichment Academy is for deaf or hard of hearing high school students who are interested in a career in the helping fields. This program, which runs from June 22 to August 1, includes classes in psychology, math, English, computers, career awareness, self-discovery, and ASL/deaf culture, as well as field trips and weekend activities.

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Mountain Lakes High School wins Mid-Atlantic Regional Academic Bowl

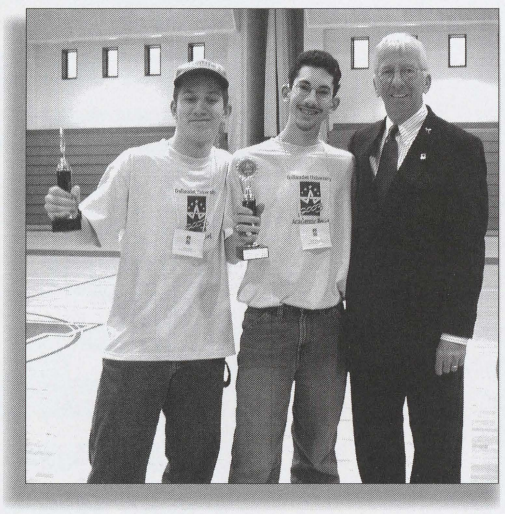


Photo by Zhou Fang

President Jordan presents Dan Pavlick and David Guardino with their Most Valuable Player trophies.

It went down to the wire in what was arguably the most exciting of the five regional Academic Bowls, with Mountain Lakes High School, Mountain Lakes, N.J., winning the Mid-Atlantic Regional Academic Bowl March 21-22 at MSSD.

Mountain Lakes emerged victorious from a final battle with MSSD and the Maryland School for the Deaf for first place.

After a round-robin matchup between all eight teams–MSSD, MSD, Mountain Lakes, Rockville High School, Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Delaware School for the Deaf, and Midland Park High School (N.J.)—MSSD, MSD, and Mountain Lakes were tied with 6 - 1 records.

Since only two teams could advance to the final round, the tie was broken by adding up the point differences between the scores of the three tied teams of the games they had played against each other. Mountain Lakes beat MSSD, 56 - 41, MSD beat Mountain Lakes, 46 - 41, and MSSD beat MSD, 58 - 57. Therefore, Mountain Lakes had plus-nine, MSD had plus-four, and MSSD had minus 14.

Mountain Lakes got its revenge against MSD in the Championship Round, 39 - 34, to win the Mid-Atlantic Championship.

The members of the winning MLHS squad are David Guardino, Pamela Lin, Rachel Manis, Dan Pavlick, and Allison Tripodi.

Pavlick and Guardino were named most valuable players of the region. Pennsylvania School for the Deaf won the Sportsmanship Award.

Both the first- and second-place winners of each regional competition will come to Gallaudet May 3-6 to participate in the National Academic Bowl. The first and second place winners of the regional competitions are: Southeast Region—first place, Florida School for the Deaf, second place, Lincoln High School; West Region—first place, University High School, second place, Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind; Midwest Region—first place, Indiana School for the Deaf,second place, Wisconsin School for the Deaf; Northeast Region—first place, Monroe # 1 BOCES, second place, The Learning Center for Deaf Children.



Photo by Zhou Fang

Members of the Mountain Lakes High School Academic Bowl team receive their first-place trophies from President Jordan. Pictured with Dr. Jordan are, from left: coach Diane Hewitt, Dan Pavlick, David Guardino, Pamela Lin, Rachel Manis, Allison Tripodi, and coach Agnes Maiuro. The team will return to campus to compete in the National Academic Bowl May 3-6.

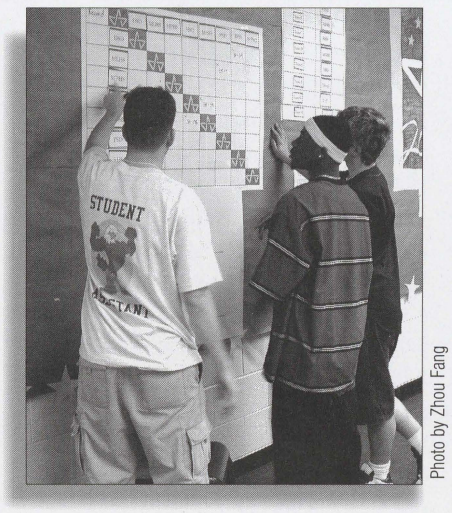
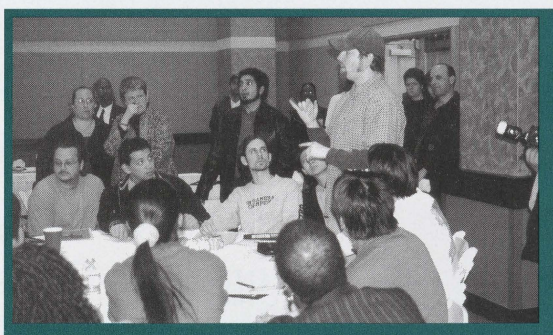


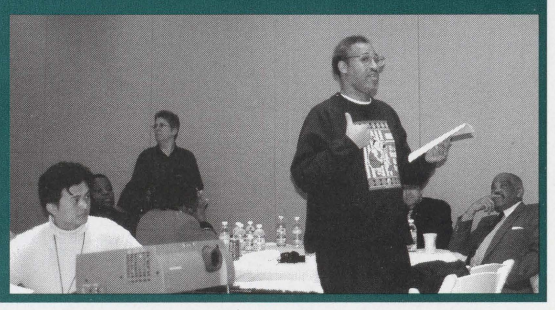
Photo by Zhou Fang

Fans check the results of the matches on a board posted at the entrance to MSSD.









(Bottom Left) Carolyn McCaskill Henry (center), assistant professor in the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies, Melanie Bleck (left), assistant professor of English, and Dr. Virginia Gutman, chair of the Psychology Department, group leaders for the breakout session, "Where's My Yearbook?" ask audience members what topics they would like to discuss related to the controversial 2001 *Tower Clock*; (Top Left) Jeremy Curtis, junior user support technician, Academic Technology, makes a point to his group during a discussion of the yearbook; (Top Right) Kitty Baldridge, associate professor, Physical Education and Recreation, and group leader for "What Happened to The Bison Head?," explains the ground rules for conducting the session so that all participants have a chance to give their opinions; and (Bottom Right) Daniel Pernell III, ANC commissioner for the Near Northeastern District, explains the community's concerns with students' off-campus house parties during the "It's My House....I Can Party if I Want to!" session, as George Boyd (right), chair of the Gallaudet Community Relations Council, looks on.

Diversity Day

continued from page 1

kind of dialogue, Kendall said, particularly among majority groups who have privileges based on their skin color which are denied to others.

Another common obstacle is preconceived judgments. She explained that if a group of people is presented a set of facts, they quickly become fragmented in their views, selecting data, adding personal and cultural meanings, making assumptions, drawing conclusions, and taking actions based on their own beliefs.

Kendall said she is reminded of the daily injustices that are suffered by underrepresented groups by a quote from the book *American Justice,* by Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Louis Menand, the April 2 keynote presenter for the Genetics, Disability, and Deafness Conference at Gallaudet April 2-4. Menand states: "The evil of modern society is not that it creates racism, but that it creates conditions in which the people who don't suffer from injustice seem incapable of caring very much about people who do."

A parallel can be drawn between Menand's words and the pain that President Jordan expressed in recalling a Stakeholders' Conference last fall, which was part of the ongoing Campus Climate Process. At the conference, 800 responses were given by members of the Gallaudet community on issues of diversity, trust, and collaboration. "It was hard for me to know that some people had those perceptions. . . . I was honestly shocked about some of those things," he said. But hopefully there will be a positive outcome, since the goal of the Climate Process is to eliminate barriers to a more unified community.

"As an academic community we have an obligation to bring issues of diversity out in the open," said Jordan, adding that since becoming president of the University, he has strived to see diversity "as a strength, not an obstacle." He gave examples of how Gallaudet is achieving diversity: last fall, 33 percent of its undergraduates came from underrepresented groups, twice the number in 1991; and this fall, 57 percent of entering students qualified for credit English, approximately double the '91 figures, dispelling criticism by some that a diverse student body would mean sacrificing the quality of students. The percentage of deaf administrators, staff, faculty, and teachers has also risen, said Jordan.

The afternoon sessions at Diversity Day focused on the issues of the yearbook, the bison head, and off-campus parties.

The controversial 2001 *Tower Clock* yearbook was suspended by the University after many members of the campus community complained that it was offensive to them. Participants in the discussion shared many concerns.

Regarding students whose photos were taken in embarrassing or demeaning situations, Art Roehrig, academic support service coordinator in the Office of Students with Disabilities, said "It hit me because many students told me they were upset with their picture." Others were concerned about those who were put at a disadvantage when distribution of the 2001 *Tower Clock* ceased. "What do we do about the other victims, those who did not get their yearbook?" said Eileen Matthews, associate dean for the Center for Academic Programs and Student Services.

Several people suggested that the situation could be remedied by taking out the offensive pages, and distributing the remainder of the yearbooks, but others felt this would be a difficult task because of the number of the reportedly offensive pages.

Another hot topic was house parties, which have been irritating to some of Gallaudet's neighbors. After watching a short videotape, which expressed the views of both the neighbors and Gallaudet students about what goes on at these parties, small discussion groups were formed to discuss the issue.

The issue surrounding the bison head in the Student Union building involved the different perspectives of those community members who thought it was a strong symbol of the Gallaudet mascot and spirit, and those who were offended because of their Native American heritage, their views on animal rights, or other beliefs. Participants seemed to understand these perspectives, and spent a good deal of time expressing concerns about the process used to make decisions that affected community members, but did not involve them.

While there were no clear cut solutions, Gallaudet's neighbors made progress in their efforts to communicate with Gallaudet, and students' views were also heard. Provost Jane Fernandes said that during Diversity Day 2003, "We allowed controversial issues to be discussed openly and honestly. This is the first step in capitalizing on our diversity to build a stronger and more unified community. The goals of the Campus Climate Process and those of Diversity Day are the same: to assure that Gallaudet becomes the best that it can be."

ON THE GREEN

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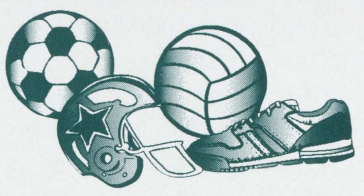
AMONG OURSELVES

Gallaudet artists **Linda Jordan,** adjunct professor of art, **Dr. William Moses,** chair of the Art Department, and **Peggy Reichard,** associate professor of art, will present a joint exhibit, "Beauty, Form, and Function: Pottery and Mixed Media Works," at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center from April 25 to May 25. Jordan's pots continue the tradition of Japanese, "mingeisota," and North Carolina potters with their sensitive and/or bold shapes, glazes, and incised patterns. Moses uses mixed media, dyeing, painting, printing, applique, trapunto, and embossing. Reichard makes conceptual art in clay that is intuitive, beautiful, organic, and lyrical. Exhibit hours are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. An opening reception will be held on Sunday, April 27, from 1 to 4 p.m., with talks by the artists beginning at 2 p.m. In addition, art demonstrations will be given by Reichard on May 4 at 1 p.m., and by Moses on May 18 at 1 p.m. The art center is located in Smallwood State Park, Marbury, Md., off Rt. 224 in Charles County, 35 miles south of Washington, D.C. Detailed directions can be found at www.mattawomanart.org

Dr. Jane Norman, professor in the Department of Communication Studies, and **Dr. John Schuchman,** professor emeritus, presented last month at a three-day Deaf Film Festival held at Vista Community College in Berkeley, Calif. Norman's topic was "Deaf Cinema: Visualizing the Concept," and Schuchman's was "Hollywood Speaks," about the history of deaf representation in television and film. The event was sponsored by Pacific Film Archive and the American Sign Language Department at Vista.



Deaf artist Sander Blondeel holds the bottom of his glass sculpture while Gary Grant from PPD adjusts the wires. The sculpture, which was commissioned for Deaf Way II, can now be seen on the second floor of College Hall. According to Pat Thompson, appointment secretary in the President's Office, the sculpture is "absolutely beautiful beyond description" in the morning hours when it catches the sun's rays.



SPORTS ROUNDUP

Baseball

The baseball team entered spring break with a 5-4 record after splitting a double-header with Christendom on March 15. Gallaudet won the first game 6-5 and lost the second 14-1. The Bison were losing 3-1 in the bottom of the sixth inning when six players were walked, and a trio of wild pitches gave Gallaudet a 5-3 lead. After Christendom tied the score in its half of the seventh, Gallaudet scored the winning run after Chris Argentina walked, went to second on a passed ball, advanced to third on a wild pitch, and scored on a throwing error.

On March 13, Gallaudet swept a doubleheader against Valley Forge Christian College, 14-6 and 7-1. Nicholas Vita went four-for-five with two runs batted in and scored two runs to pace the Bison in the first game. Nathan Bayarsky was three-for-four, Brett Talley was two-for-four with two RBIs, and Curtis Christopher-Anderson hit a three-run home run. Sean Jackson got the win by pitching six innings, allowing seven hits and four runs, striking out 10, and walking six. In the second game, Chad Karnowski pitched the entire game, allowing just one run on four hits, striking out five batters. Christopher-Anderson and Jackson went two-for-three at the plate. On March 12, Gallaudet suffered a double-header defeat at the hands on Salisbury University, 16-6 and 15-2.

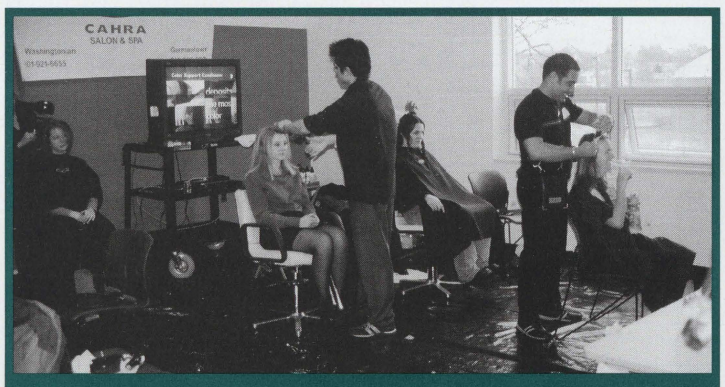
Softball:

Gallaudet swept Mary Baldwin, 7-2 and 6-4, on March 13, to enter spring break with a 3-2 record. Pitcher Amy Androuais earned the win in both games. She pitched the final three- and one-third innings in the opener, and all five innings of the second game. Gallaudet scored in the first game when Tamijo Foronda singled home Kitty Bottoms in the first inning, on a two-run single by Jill Bianco in the third inning, and a two-run single by Kitty Bottoms in the fourth inning. Foronda got a two-run single to tie the second game, and scored on a passed ball for the game-winning run. She was four-for-seven in the two games with three RBIs and two runs scored.

On March 11, Gallaudet beat Villa Julie, 4-3. Gallaudet scored three runs in the fourth inning when Jill Bianco walked and Tamijo Foronda and Katie Spiegel reached base on errors. Then, with the bases loaded, Socorro Garcia hit a triple. Gallaudet scored its fourth run in the fifth inning when Melissa Marino got a single, stole second, advanced to third, and scored on consecutive ground-outs.

Summer camps for deaf and hard of hearing children

The Clerc Center has published its 2003 Summer Camp listing on its web site, http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/InfoToGo/142.html.



Members of the campus community get reduced price haircuts from stylists at the Cahra Salon and Spa of Gaithersburg, Md., in the SUB Multipurpose Room during the March 6 Women's Expo. The expo featured exhibitors specializing in products of interest to women, including fabric art, photo books and other collectibles, and cosmetics. It was co-sponsored by Campus Activities, Multicultural Student Programs, Health and Wellness, and Student Affairs.

Health careers

continued from page 1

The Summer Enrichment Program is geared for deaf, hard of hearing, or hearing students who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate or community college. This program, which also runs from June 22 to August 1, is for students who want to earn a degree in helping fields like psychology, counseling, or audiology and are interested in working with the deaf community.

The six-week Jump Start to Graduate School Program, which will run from July 14 to August 22, is for college students who are applying to or accepted for graduate school and are interested in working with the deaf community as professionals in mental health, counseling, social work, audiology, or speech-language pathology. The program includes training in ASL and deaf culture, computer literacy, writing skills, career awareness, and statistics.

The programs are free, although students may be responsible for some optional incidental expenses. The deadline to apply is April 30. For more information about HCOP, contact Lisa Holte, HCOP coordinator, at hcop.office@gallaudet.edu.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

April:

4, 5, 6, 11, 12—Spring Play, *The Bald Soprano* and *The Chairs*, by Eugene Ionesco; tickets are $8 for students with ID and $10 for everyone else, to order, call x5500 (V) or x5502 (TTY), or order at http://depts.gallaudet.edu/theatre/events/events.html

5—34th Annual Charter Day Luncheon and Awards Program celebrating the signing of Gallaudet's charter by President Abraham Lincoln and recognizing seven GUAA award recipients, GUKCC, for more information, go to alumni.gallaudet.edu or call x5060; Gallaudet Invitational Softball Tournament, times TBA

7—Scholar's Forum, presenters Dr. Julia Bertak and Dr. Deborah Krichbaum, Department of Family and Child Studies, 12-1 p.m., HMB S-150, for more information, call x5224; Tennis vs. The University of The District of Columbia, 4 p.m.

8—Fall course registration for recently enrolled undergraduate students, Chapel Hall 101, for more information, call x5393; advanced Powerpoint workshop, create templates, time slides, and jazz up animation, 1-2 p.m., SAC 2210, for more information, go to acadtech.gallaudet.edu/events/elearning, or call x5864

8-10—Gallaudet/Vocational Rehabilitation Connections Conference, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., for more information, go to pr.gallaudet.edu/events/vrconnections, or call x5050

9—Turn-A-Page-Together, books and lunch provided, pre-registration required, SUB Room A, 12-1 p.m., for more information, call x5144; Web Skills Workshop, learn to search the web, understand general web and Internet concepts, SAC 2210, 2-3 p.m., for more information, go to acadtech.gallaudet.edu/events/elearning, or call x5864

10—CLAST Open Forum w/dean and associate deans, 12-1 p.m., open to CLAST faculty and staff, HMB S150, for more information, call x5224

11—Open House for prospective undergraduate students, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., for more information, go to admissions.gallaudet.edu/openhouse; Captioning with Magpie workshop, learn to add captions to digital video clips, 2-3 p.m., SAC 2210, for more information, go to acadtech.gallaudet.edu/events/elearning, or call x5864; Signing Gospel, Gallaudet joins area churches with deaf ministries and choirs to present a concert of signed songs and praise, co-sponsored by the Black Deaf Student Union and the Office of Campus Ministries, Ely Auditorium, 7 p.m., for more information, call x5366

12—Softball vs. Philadelphia Bible College, 1 p.m., two games

13—Softball vs. Chestnut Hill, 1 p.m., two games

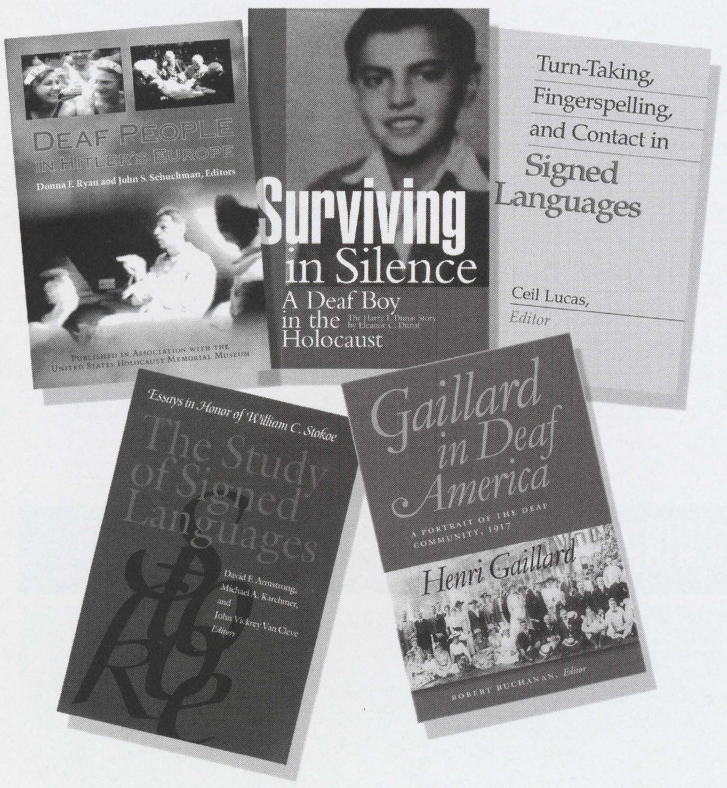
14—Fall course registration for currently enrolled graduate students, Chapel Hall 101, for more information, call x5393; Baseball vs. Lancaster Bible College, 2 p.m., two games

15—Baseball vs. York College, 3 p.m., two games; Front Page Basics Workshop, learn to format and use templates to create websites, insert graphics, and publish to the web, SAC 2210, 3-4 p.m., for more information, go to acadtech.gallaudet.edu/events/elearning, or call x5864; President's Scholars Dinner, GUKCC ballroom, 5:30–7:30 p.m., for more information, call x5706

16—Turn-A-Page-Together, books and lunch provided, pre-registration required, SUB Room A, 12-1 p.m., for more information, call x5144; Video Suites Orientation Workshop, learn to use self-taping video equipment and special editing software, 12-1 p.m., SAC 2210, for more information, go to acadtech.gallaudet.edu/events/elearning, or call x5864

17—Campus Tag Sale (flea market), Distribution Center (formerly Central Receiving), 11 a.m.–4 p.m., for more information, call x5075; Smart Force Workshop, learn to use MS Office, Macromedia, and other software, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., SAC 2210, for more information, go to acadtech.gallaudet.edu/events/elearning, or call x5864; Scan and Edit with Photoshop Elements, learn to scan 3-D items and pictures to the computer and edit with Photoshop Elements, 1-2 p.m., SAC 2210, for more information, go to acadtech.gallaudet.edu/events/elearning, or call x5864

GUPress announces new book titles



By Dan Wallace

The arrival of spring also brings a new flight of books from Gallaudet University Press, sure to enrich the reading experience of students and scholars.

Gallaudet history professor Donna Ryan and professor Emeritus John S. Schuchman edited *Deaf People in Hitler's Europe,* which features a collection of presentations from the 1998 conference combined with more recent work. The United States Memorial Holocaust Museum co-sponsored the conference and collaborated upon this engrossing book, which details the experiences of deaf people during this devastating period.

A personal account of the Holocaust can be found in *Surviving in Silence: A Deaf Boy in the Holocaust,* by Eleanor C. Dunai, who tells the story of her father, Harry I. Dunai, who as an 11-year-old boy suffered persecution at the hands of the Arrow Cross fascists in Budapest, Hungary. Close to death from starvation, Harry barely survived, only later to endure the oppression of the communist regime until his escape.

Gallaudet professor of linguistics Ceil Lucas, who is also editor of the *Sociolinguistics in Deaf Communities* series, edited the eighth volume in the series *Turn-Taking, Fingerspelling and Contact in Signed Languages.* Ten scholars researched various key factors of the signed languages used in select international communities, from interpreter turn-taking in Flanders to an investigation of the Catalan/Spanish bilingual community in Barcelona, Spain.

The Study of Signed Languages: Essays in Honor of William C. Stokoe presents the contributions of a notable assembly of scholars who met in 1999 to pay tribute to the preeminent pioneer in the linguistics of American Sign Language and to share their research inspired by his work. Gallaudet scholars David F. Armstrong, Michael A. Karchmer, and John Vickrey Van Cleve edited this fascinating collection, which ranges from historical perspectives on sign language studies to the explosion of linguistic anthropology with signed languages at its center. A third part explores signed languages in diverse populations, including findings on black deaf communities in America, variation in signed languages, and discoveries about sign communication and the motor functions of autistic children.

GUPress also has published a delightful journal by a deaf traveler from the early 20th century. Henri Gaillard, a renowned deaf French journalist, visited the United States in 1917 for the centennial celebration of the American School for the Deaf. He then visited various Deaf communities in America and wrote about them in his personal journal, which the Press has published as *Gaillard in Deaf America,* the third volume in its Gallaudet Classics in Deaf Studies series. Gaillard describes the first church founded by a deaf pastor, deaf clubs established by the first wave of deaf college graduates, and also the reaction of the Deaf communities to the advent of World War I. This engaging report along with the other new books from GUPress promise to spur readers to their own creative flights of thought.

Gallaudet University Press books can be bought at the Gallaudet University Bookstore or directly by calling toll-free, 1-800-630-9347 (TTY), or 1-800-621-8476 (Fax). All of the books published by the Press can be viewed online at gupress.gallaudet.edu.

CLERC CENTER HAPPENINGS

Botball Robots—build them and they will play

By Susan M. Flanigan

What builder could resist a contest to construct a LEGO robot that plays games? A group of MSSD students will have the opportunity this spring when they compete against teams of other students in the Botball competition in the Washington, D.C., area.

Botball, a combination of "roBOT" and "BALL," is a hands-on learning experience in robotics that challenges students to make use of practical applications of science and math. Botball's educational goals include technology awareness, engineering, C programming computer language, Internet research, design skills, and creativity. "The most important outcome is to improve students' learning attitudes," said MSSD science teacher Mark Tao.

Each team receives a kit containing the same LEGO parts. The students will have about six weeks to build a robot and develop the programming. No remote control is allowed; students learn C programming language to get the robots to perform tasks. Botball is played on a 4- x 8-foot table. "A big part of the challenge is anticipating what the robot will encounter on the playing field, and building strategies into the program that will lead to a winning response," said Tao. "C language puts the students on the cutting edge as the program is one of the most popular computer languages used in science and business."

There are 12 regional competitions across the United States. MSSD is one of 54 area teams taking part in the Greater D.C. Regional Competition, which will take place on May 3 at the University of Maryland. The regional winners advance to the national competition and conference this summer.

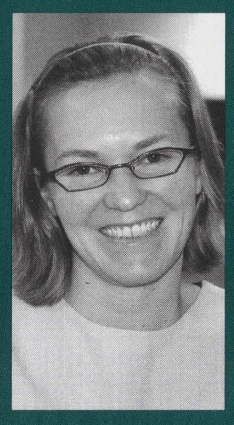
The students will be in charge of building their robot and programming it for the competition. Up until the competition, they will periodically document and post their Botball program at the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics Web site in order to earn points. Documentation will include students' mechanical design, software code, game strategy, testing procedures, team assignments, schedule, and weekly report.

Dr. David Snyder, a professor in Gallaudet's Chemistry and Physics Department, and Mary Ellsworth, an MSSD science teacher, are helping to develop activities for the MSSD students that will give them background skills.

Botball is sponsored by a coalition of corporate, government, and educational institutions. MSSD's Botball team received funding from the District of Columbia Space Grant Consortium. "We are very grateful for their support," said Tao.

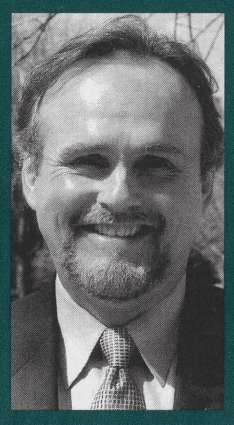
ROVING REPORTER

What are your feelings about the war in Iraq?



Janel Grossinger, vocational rehabilitation coordinator, Financial Aid Office:

Mixed. I do believe Iraq is a threat to some degree; however, I question whether President Bush provoked the threat by saying Iraq is part of the "Axis of Evil," and whether this war is personal to Bush: 'He (Saddam) almost killed my daddy.' This war will have my fullest support when the U.S./U.K. locate biological and chemical weapons and prove Iraq failed to disarm.



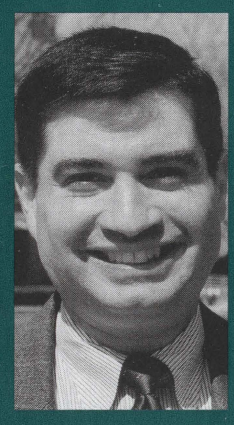
Frank Duffy, professor, Administration and Supervision:

Many years ago, I served as an Army Green Beret and Ranger. One of the things I learned back then, a lesson that has stuck with me throughout my life, is that in this world, some things are worth fighting for and some things are worth dying for. This war is one of those times. Evil men like Saddam Hussein do not respect or respond to overtures to peace. He respects and responds to one thing only—military force. If we want peace, we must be willing to use military force.



Jean Bergey, project director, History Through Deaf Eyes:

By making a unilateral decision of war, the administration appears to have no regard for international law and the United Nations. I fear long-term damage has been done to international relations and world peace.



Fred Weiner, special assistant to the president for planning, President's Office:

It's mixed, really. On one hand, I believe we have entered an era where shadow groups supported by rogue nations can create catastrophic results, as September 11th shows. This suggests the old rules have changed and that the current model of diplomacy does not work in today's world. In some cases, use of force may be the alternative. On the other hand, it is anguishing to see people suffering.